

# National Congress Bulletin

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## Memo to Local Presidents:

AS WE PLAN for Founders Day, it is well to consider its purpose. Founders Day is a celebration of the future as well as of the past. It is more than a tribute to yesterday; it is a commitment to tomorrow. From the past we inherit a legacy of historic achievements for children, families, schools, and communities. To transmit a richer heritage than we have received is our responsibility. Founders Day is an occasion to build for the future.

It is an occasion to honor Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst by *strengthening and expanding the organization* they founded. Through our Founders Day programs we seek to build community support of parent-teacher work and to increase our own members' participation in our Action Program. But we shall not accomplish this through parades of yesteryears' fashions, outmoded ceremonies, or sentimental eulogies of the past.

Today the Space Age supplants the Air Age. Our world, which for fifty years has been shrinking, is suddenly expanding. Interplanetary—even interstellar—flight is more than a remote possibility. Ahead of us hover portentous changes. We cannot linger in the past. We must act in the present and plan for the future.

• Yet our past is important. What is important about it? It is important that the National Congress was founded in 1897 as a *national* organization to enable us to influence *national* affairs affecting children. It is important that immediately after its founding, state branches were organized and local groups brought in, so that *state* action and *local* action could be taken for children's welfare. It is important that it was founded with broad, fundamental objectives that are as valid today as yesterday.

It is important that the National Congress, the state congresses, and the local units immediately went to work to inform themselves about children's physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual needs and to arouse the public conscience to public responsibilities for



AS CHRISTMAS approaches, it is my privilege to speak for the National Board of Managers in wishing for you and every P.T.A. member all the joys and blessings of the glad season. May our Objects guide us in our journey through the new year. And may the journey carry us forward with enriched services for children and their families.

E.G.B.

children. It is important that since its very beginning the parent-teacher organization—local, state, and national—has been in the vanguard of movements to improve conditions for children: parent education; regulation of child labor; care for dependent, neglected, and delinquent children; establishment of juvenile courts and probation systems; compulsory school attendance laws; broadening of school curriculums; improvement of school financing; provision of kindergartens, recreation facilities, public and school libraries, health and social services for children and families. Above all, it is important that in the National Congress our farsighted Founders established an agency through which we—parents, teachers, and other citizens—can make our concern for children count, really count, in the community, the state, and the nation. The parent-teacher organization always has been and always will be an instrument for effective, cooperative action.

• What of our present? It is important that we are engaged in a great, nationwide Action Program, rooted in our traditional objectives but focused sharply on present realities. It is important that through that program we are piling up tangible benefits for families and communities. It is important that, when the figures can be added, we may have a membership of eleven million; that we have 43,000 local units organized in state branches in the forty-eight states, Alaska, Hawaii, and the District of Columbia. Our numbers and our state and national strength are important to your members and to your community because they make the parent-teacher organization a powerful, influential spokesman for your children's welfare—a voice that is listened to and respected in the legislative chambers of the state and the nation.

Our steady growth means that parent-teacher cooperation is no longer an experiment; it is an established custom that has proved its worth. It has proved its worth so conclusively that American parents overseas in the service of our country have established parent-teacher associations in schools for American children abroad.

In the complex world of today it is important that the status of the National Congress is such that it can draw on the best professional advice in the country in developing programs of parent-teacher action and can secure for its programs the support of professional organizations. Let me cite just one example. Under the leadership of our national chairman of Health, Dr. Henry F. Helmholtz, a distinguished nationally known physician, we are embarked on a greatly expanded health program—a program of continuous health supervision of children. (The program was outlined by Dr. Helmholtz in the October *Bulletin*.) In the planning of that program we had the assistance of representatives from twenty national organi-

(Continued on page 2)



(Continued from page 1)

zations and government agencies. As your P.T.A. and other local units carry out the program in your local communities, you will find the cooperation of local and state branches of these national groups easy to enlist, because the groundwork for cooperation was laid at a conference with national leaders they know and respect. This is just one instance of our capacity and resources to do the job that needs to be done today.

Illustrate for your members, too, how your state congress initiates, promotes, and maintains programs that merit and earn the aid of all persons interested in the welfare and education of children and youth.

• What of the future? Founders Day is a time to build for the future. It is an opportunity to create the climate of favorable public opinion in which our work can thrive and grow. Publicity concerning the Founders Day meeting should be distributed well in advance to all communications channels in the community. Invite all persons interested in working for the welfare of children to come to the meeting to discuss ways of being of still greater service to them.

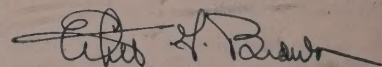
We must let them know that the P.T.A. is serving the family and the community in necessary, vital ways. And we must be specific. Which of the objectives and problems in the Action Program is your local unit working on? What projects or activities has it undertaken? Which does it plan to undertake? Your community's interest can be stimulated only if you communicate what you are doing, what you plan to do, and how your work relates to the action programs of your state congress and of the National Congress, whose founding you are commemorating. If you are embarking on a new project—the continuous health supervision program, for example—Founders Day is an excellent time to announce it.

In another way Founders Day is an occasion to build for the future. The total Founders Day gift is *divided equally* between the state congress and the National Congress. The funds contributed are used for extension work. The portion retained by the state congress is used not only to organize new units but also to help existing units, like yours, to increase their capacity for effective effort. It is used to develop leadership at all organizational levels. The other half helps to finance National

Congress extension services. Through voluntary gifts we can offer more men and more women opportunities to grow in responsible parenthood and citizenship and to serve the family and the community through the P.T.A.

Founders Day, then, is an opportunity for *every P.T.A. member* to make a *personal contribution* to the extending and strengthening of parent-teacher work. The larger the gift the more we can do for children.

• We cannot afford to devote Founders Day to inconsequential ceremonies. Our Founders Day program must have consequences. It must result in increased public esteem for the P.T.A. It must infuse our members with zeal to get on with important work. It must extend to other men and women the opportunity to share in our efforts. Undoubtedly the finest tribute we can pay to past leaders is to build for the future. "What is past is prologue." Let Founders Day raise the curtain on a future of expanded and memorable service to the family and the community.



MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, President  
National Congress of Parents and Teachers



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• Indonesian women, participants in the Foreign Leaders Program of the International Exchange Service of the U.S. Department of State, were guests at National Congress Headquarters October 4-6, 1957. From left: Mrs. Baroroh Baried, Mrs. Rukmini Untung, Mrs. Bariah Zain Djambek, Mrs. Bernarda Boeniaty Kwari Sosrosoemarto, Mrs. Rd. Sukmaja, Mrs. Theodora Walandouw-Tumbuan, Mrs. Crescentia Siti Soeranti Wignjanto, Mrs. Christine A.M.S.A. Tuapattinaja-Matulesy, and Mrs. Rollin Brown.

### 1958 CONVENTION

- The 1958 convention of the National Congress will be held in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 18, 19, 20, 21.

### NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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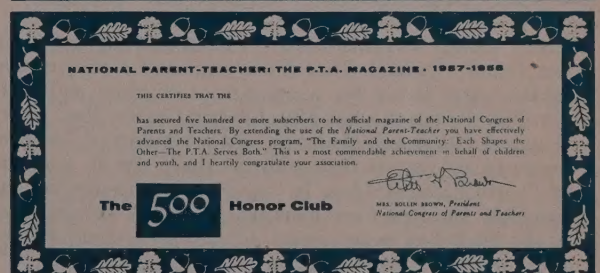
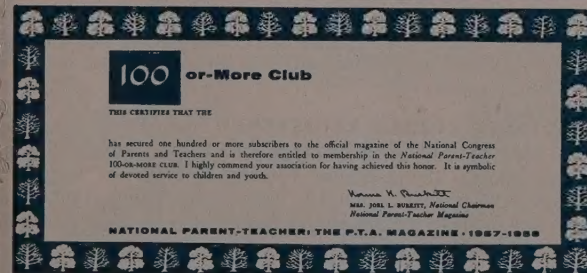
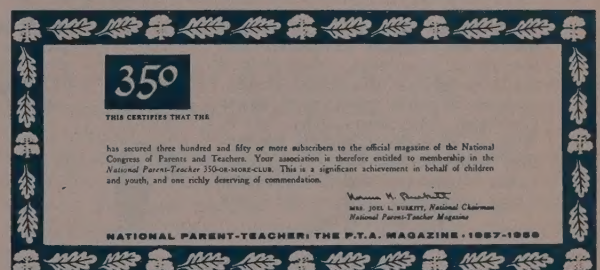
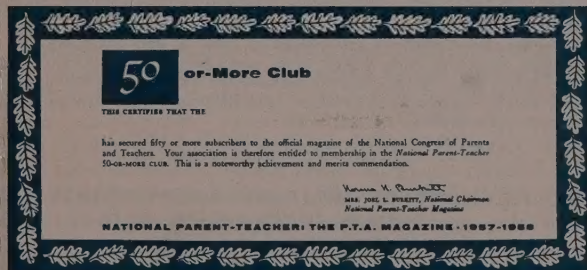
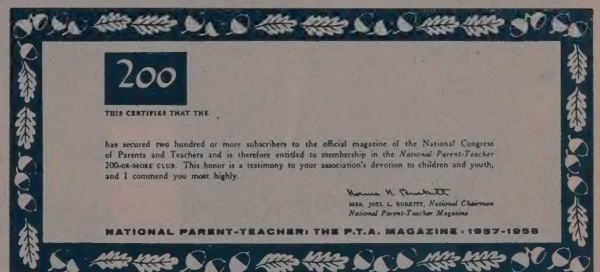
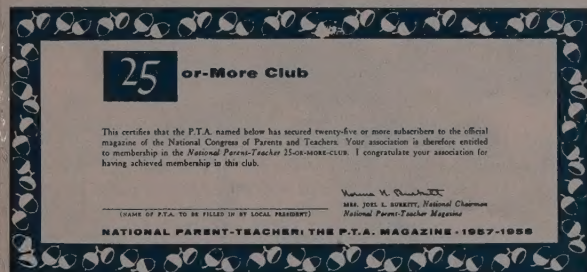
# MAGAZINE CLUB *Certificates*

JOT DOWN THE DATE

OPPORTUNITY BECKONS — there's still plenty of time before March 31, 1958, to earn one or more NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER MAGAZINE Club Certificates. You may count new and renewal subscriptions; association subscriptions; Christmas gift and other gift subscriptions. In fact, to get a good start on the 25-or-More Club, your P.T.A. can give itself a Christmas gift of five or ten subscriptions for the use of officers and chairmen.

Whenever your P.T.A. has forwarded enough subscriptions to qualify for a Magazine Club, your local magazine chairman may claim a Magazine Club Membership Certificate. The person claiming it for the association must notify the magazine office in Chicago, stating the number of subscriptions forwarded and the dates on which they were sent to Chicago. Certificates will be given only when this information is submitted.

Address all requests for certificates to: Certificate Department, National Parent-Teacher, 700 North Rush Street, Chicago 11, Illinois. Certificates are mailed on the tenth and twenty-fifth of each month, October through April. All subscriptions secured and forwarded any time between April 1, 1957, and March 31, 1958, may be counted.



The actual certificates measure 8½ inches by 3½ inches each, and are printed in attractive contrasting colors. Perhaps YOUR P.T.A. will be the proud possessor of all six certificates!

The NATIONAL PARENT-TEACHER MAGAZINE is a valued member of the parent-teacher family circle, and where there is good, strong local leadership there you will find the magazine widely used and vigorously promoted—the club certificates are tangible evidence. Put one or more in your P.T.A. record book!



P.

T.

A.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Items on Citizenship Programs, Contributed by Mrs. Albert Solomon, Citizenship Chairman, National Congress of Parents and Teachers.



• A dinner meeting was a pleasant part of the Alabama citizenship conference at Tuscaloosa. Attending it are (from left) Dr. William N. Eddins, director of public relations, Alabama Education Association; Mrs. M. P. Walker, Alabama Congress citizenship chairman and one of the conference planners; and Dr. Houston Cole, president, Jacksonville State Teachers College.



• A year of special English instruction for Puerto Rican children in Camden has passed, and parent-teacher representatives are invited to come in and check the progress made. Standing, from left: Mrs. Walter Srain, president, Cooper-Grant P.T.A.; Mrs. Edward Conlin, New Jersey citizenship chairman; Mrs. Robert Hawk, city zone chairman; Joseph Coruzzi, school principal; and Mrs. Raya S. Weissman, the teacher.

- **THE "GOOD CITIZENSHIP" PROGRAM** of the Camden County Council (New Jersey) spurred a project that means better living for a number of children and their families. It started when Mrs. Edward Conlin, New Jersey Congress citizenship chairman and a resident of Camden, began to get reports that, with the sharp rise in numbers of Puerto Rican children in Camden's classrooms, serious language barriers were looming. Fourteen children out of the thirty-five in one room, for example, could neither speak nor understand English.

Following thereafter was an exchange of ideas on handling the situation, with conferences set up to include faculty members of a nearby teachers college, the supervisor of elementary education, the superintendent of schools, and Mrs. Conlin. The result was a pilot program in which a qualified instructor, using her native Spanish tongue, worked with the children in daily English classes. Some of the children did so well that they could be promoted along with fellow pupils. But all of them have found closer relationships with their teachers and classmates and doors opened to new American vistas.

- **FULFILLMENT OF MILITARY RESPONSIBILITY** can also mean educational opportunity for tomorrow's citizen, so the Jackson City Council (Mississippi) sponsored a program to help their youth look ahead. All ninth-graders and high school students were invited to hear military personnel discuss selective service obligations and the benefits possible in each branch of the nation's military service.

- **GETTING VOTERS REGISTERED** and out to the polls is worth all the concentrated efforts put into planning and action, the Camden County Council of Camden, New Jersey, can conclude. This is the group that petitioned to have an appointed board of education changed to an elected board and succeeded. A school bond issue was passed, and qualified members were elected to the board of education after members of the council's units rang doorbells, used telephone squads, and supplied baby sitters and transportation. Recent citizenship awards given for promoting the "best register-and-vote campaigns" attest to the fact that citizenship is a vital part of the parent-teacher program in Camden.

Further word from Mrs. Edward A. Conlin, New Jersey citizenship chairman, is that each of sixty persons in one county, who had just become U.S. citizens, was sent a letter of welcome and a warm invitation to join the P.T.A.



- **"AMERICA IS MY COUNTRY,"** an original skit put on for a meeting of the Horace Mann P.T.A. (Binghamton, New York), was such a hit that TV audiences also had a chance to see it, as televised later on by WRBF-TV. The little play, reported by Mrs. N. D. Ward, president of the P.T.A., and Mrs. Martin A. Paul, New York Congress citizenship and international relations chairman, was composed and directed by Susie Hatheway, fifth-grade teacher in the school.

Replicas and screen illustrations were used by the costumed cast to interpret for a small questioner from across the sea the traditional meaning of several American records and symbols. Included were the Constitution, the American flag, the Great Seal, the Liberty Bell, the Statue of Liberty, "Uncle Sam," and "Yankee Doodle." Among the patriotic songs used by Miss Hatheway's class to round out the program was one, "Our Country," that had been written by the class. The program concluded with audience participation in the Pledge of Allegiance and "The Star-Spangled Banner."

- **BETTER CITIZENSHIP** in the future through present-day, practical citizenship experiences is an anticipated outcome of a delinquency prevention program launched by the P.T.A. in Cheney, Washington.

The project, called outstanding in the state by Raymond P. Whitfield, Washington citizenship chairman, began with questionnaires and interviews to get opinions on community youth problems from adults and youth alike. Results were appraised and further steps framed at a P.T.A. meeting. At a second meeting, representatives of service organizations, churches, educational institutions, and the city government met with P.T.A. members to discuss cooperative contributions of the various groups. A third meeting found the young people sitting in with their elders on matters of recreation facilities, finances, and management. Since then the project has grown into a regular schedule of teen-age dances. Direction is now in the hands of the youth under the sponsorship of other community organizations, and a swelling P.T.A. youth fund will be used for related programs.



- Maryland Congress representatives participate in the Second Annual Maryland Conference on Citizenship at Annapolis. Board members shown here with the Maryland exhibit are (from left) Mrs. Aaron B. Nadel, then secretary of the congress; Helen M. Clark, library service chairman; Mrs. Walter J. Muchow, treasurer; and Leslie M. Abbe, rules and procedures chairman.



- More than three thousand "travel-trash cans" have been placed along Vermont highways and at roadside turnouts, picnic areas, and filling stations in the Vermont Congress-supported program to keep Vermont beautiful. Here Joseph B. Johnson, governor of the state, tosses his litter bag into one of the receptacles.

- **"KEEP VERMONT BEAUTIFUL"** is both a slogan and the name of a Vermont-wide public service organization. The slogan and the organization have been given full cooperation of the Vermont Congress in attempts to handle a litter problem that threatens the beauty of the state. To make resident and visiting picnickers, hikers, and travelers "litter conscious" to the point where they'll want to do something about the situation, "travel-trash containers" were placed in strategic spots, litter bags were provided, and anti-litter flyers were distributed throughout the state.

In response to an alert sent out by Mrs. Ralph Fifield, Vermont Congress citizenship chairman, P.T.A.'s in the state are taking more and more advantage of the Keep Vermont Beautiful organization's offers to provide free speakers and literature. A cycle has been formed, it seems, in which teachers become interested through the efforts of P.T.A. groups and in turn fuse the enthusiasm of their students.

- **AMERICAN FLAG SURVEYS** by several P.T.A.'s are reported by Mrs. George M. Bosak, Pennsylvania citizenship chairman. In the wake of publicity in which they'd urged the display of the flag on national holidays, the units surveyed their communities to find out where flags could be bought and what sizes were available. Follow-up, then, was to let the people know what information they'd uncovered. In two communities auxiliary groups of the Veterans of Foreign Wars helped the P.T.A.'s do a thorough, community-wide job.





# LEGISLATION RECOMMENDATIONS

## FOR STATE CONGRESSES • 1957-1958

THE following suggested areas for study and action involve state and local legislation rather than federal laws. Passage of sound state laws and local ordinances is but the first step, however. Interest should be sustained in order to ensure high standards of administration and enforcement.

### Legal Bases for Adoption and Guardianship of Minors

- Adoption is an important part of modern social process. More than half our states have emphasized this with new or amended adoption laws in the past three years. Continuing concern with this problem is expressed by the Board of Managers of the National Congress through the recommendation that the legislation committee of each state congress continue careful review of the current and proposed state legislation for adoption and guardianship of minors.

Objectives of adoption laws should be to provide protection for:

The child from unnecessary separation from parents, from adoption by unfit persons, and from interference in adoptive home.

The own parent from hurried decisions to yield child.

The adoptive parents from hereditary defects of child and from disturbance by natural parents.

Among the principles of adoption that help to achieve the above objectives are included:

Preservation of the child's identity without stigma.

Examination of adoption placements by qualified social agency on behalf of the court.

Safeguarding the new parental rights by termination of own parent rights.

Adoption proceedings held in home state of petitioners for adoption, in their local community, and in court with jurisdiction over children's cases.

Court hearings and records held confidential.

Consent to adoption obtained from natural parents or person or agency legally responsible.

Provision for trial period of adoptive residence, including visits by authorized agency representative.

The Board recommends further that the significant gains made in the legal bases and practices for adoption and guardianship of minors during the past decade be the basis for continued emphasis in this area.

Other principles of adoption and related information are to be found in such sources as:

*Essentials of Adoption Law and Procedure.* Washington, D. C.: Children's Bureau Publication No. 331, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, 1949.

*Guardianship: A Way of Fulfilling Public Responsibility for Children.* Washington, D. C.: Children's Bureau Publication No. 330, 1949.

*Social Work Year Book.* New York: National Association of Social Workers, 1957.

### Child Labor Laws

- Federal control of child labor, which is administered through the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, applies only to industries engaging in interstate commerce or producing goods for shipment in interstate commerce. Other than this, each state makes and enforces its own child labor laws.

The federal Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended, gives the federal government authority to prohibit the employment of children under sixteen in any state while school is in session. The children of migrant workers present the greatest problem in this field. Eleven occupations have been declared hazardous for children under eighteen and are closed to them. There is no protection under this law for newsboys.

State congresses are urged not only to bring their state laws up to the standards of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act but also to be alert to defeat attempts to weaken existing state child labor statutes.

### Children of Agricultural Migrant Workers

- Seasonal agricultural labor is important to the economy of many states, and the crops harvested by this labor force are vital to the health and welfare of the American people. It has been estimated that annually as many as one million children suffer the disadvantage of following the crops. Because their families move from state to state, these children fail to receive the education, health, and welfare services available to resident children. They are generally not well accepted in the communities through which they pass, with the result that their education is sketchy, they are missed in immunization campaigns, their remediable defects are not cared for, they often suffer from severe malnutrition, and many are illegally employed. Even the limited services available to nonresidents often fail to reach them.

This complex problem requires study and teamwork for solution. The services of state departments of education, public health, and public welfare, and of state labor commissioners are involved as well as those of local communities and private agencies. Some cooperative arrangements with other states may be desirable.

It is suggested that state congresses study the situation of migrant children within their states, and that each congress work in cooperation with its state governor and appropriate agencies in developing programs to meet the needs of these children.



**LEGISLATION RECOMMENDATIONS (Continued)****Juvenile Detention**

- The Board of Managers urges each state congress to study conditions under which juveniles are detained in court custody and then determine whether state or local legislation is needed to improve these conditions or more adequately protect the interests of the children and youth who are affected by the conditions.

In seeking to improve protective services for children and youth, there are several areas in which every state should be concerned. When is detention necessary? Is the practice abused? Do your grand juries, probation commission, or other groups having official status make periodic investigations and reports?

What is the definition of a "child" so far as arrest and detention are concerned? What is the philosophy underlying detention of juveniles in your state? Is it designed to be purely custodial, punitive, rehabilitative, or a combination of two or more of these?

Are children who are neglected or dependent because of home situations separated from those held for delinquencies? Is the same true of transient children and those held as material witnesses?

Are these standards set by local or state authorities for the facilities in which these juveniles are held and for the personnel who administer them?

How do detention services in rural or urban centers compare with those in metropolitan areas?

Do you encourage local units to visit jails and juvenile halls (or detention homes) to determine and report whether juvenile offenders are segregated from adult inmates and how long juveniles are held in custody before court hearings?

Is there a state agency especially concerned with youthful offenders?

The answers to the questions should indicate whether better laws, better administration, or greater public understanding of the problem is needed in your state.

**Correlative Efforts for Child Welfare Legislation**

- The Board of Managers recommends that state congresses work for the establishment of a state commission or council composed of representatives of state agencies and organizations concerned with the welfare of children and youth. Such a commission or council can be most effective in coordinating efforts to secure legislation needed to improve services for children and youth.

**Safety****Laws Governing Traffic Safety**

- Because of the ever increasing number of highway traffic accidents, the Board of Managers recommends that each state congress work for:

Enactment of state driver-licensing laws conforming to national standards, to the end that every driver of an automotive vehicle may be physically, mentally, and emotionally fit to drive and fully aware of his responsibility to the public as the operator of a motor car.

Enactment of modern, comprehensive, and uniform traffic

laws and ordinances based on the Uniform Vehicle Code and the Model Traffic Ordinance, both available from the National Safety Council.

Requirement that all owners of motor vehicles carry such public liability and property damage insurance—or prove personal responsibility—as will give proof of their ability to pay for personal injury or property damage caused by motor vehicles owned or operated by them.

Provision of budget and personnel organization adequate to enforce laws governing traffic safety.

**Driver Education**

- State congresses should be alert to the ever increasing need for legislation for driver education.

**Fire Prevention**

- Because of the great losses in human lives and property each year through fires, the Board of Managers recommends that state congresses give full cooperation to governors, mayors, school superintendents, and all officials in the fields of education, engineering, and enforcement in putting into effect these recommendations of the President's Conference on Fire Prevention:

Study of existing building codes.

Strengthening of state-wide fire prevention laws.

**Fireworks**

- On July 1, 1954, federal legislation became effective, prohibiting transportation of fireworks into any state in which sale or use of such fireworks is prohibited by state law. The federal law does not affect state laws regulating sale, use, manufacture, or possession of fireworks but is intended to prevent circumvention of such statutes. State congresses will know whether or not such legislation governing sale or use of fireworks is in effect in a given state. Only a few states allow such sale and use of fireworks. This is a challenge.

**Community Safety**

- Community surveys should be undertaken to the end that appropriate legislation may be enacted to safeguard children from hazards such as unused wells; abandoned buildings; iceboxes and other airtight chests; unprotected quarries and pits; and irrigation ditches in residential areas.

**Narcotics Control**

- State congresses may find a great need to encourage state and local action to secure adequate state laws and county and local ordinances for the control of the drug traffic and the enforcement of such legal controls as now exist.

**Library Services**

- The Library Services Act became Public Law on June 19, 1956. State congresses should know whether their departments of education are planning to use federal Library Services Act monies and whether plans have been formulated and/or submitted for matching funds. Furthermore, a state congress may be helpful in creating public opinion within a state or territory to secure the needed matching funds. The Library Services Act is a demonstration program, planned for a five-year period.



# COUNCILS IN ACTION...

QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, AND COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCILS SECTION MEETING AT THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

**Q.** Should all legislative measures be channeled through the state congress rather than through the council?

**COMMENT:** The answer to this question would seem to be "not necessarily."

**MRS. LEONARD, immediate past president, N.C.P.T.:** The work for a legislative measure should start with the need. For instance, when one P.T.A. decides to do something to protect children, it may soon find that the problem affects the entire city or county. Or perhaps work on the problem needs to be coordinated throughout the state. Sometimes it becomes a national concern. Both local units and councils cooperate with the state congress on legislative concerns as needs arise and as work advances.

**Q.** How can councils get people to attend its meetings and conferences?

**COMMENTS:** One council discussion program, with a teacher as moderator and fourteen high school students as panel members, was unusually well attended because the student council, with the permission of the school principal, was set up as a telephone team to call parents and invite them to attend the meeting.

Using publicity to its fullest potential is another way to get P.T.A. members and others to attend council meetings. Ask newspapers for support; get radio time. If people know the meeting is going to be an interesting one, they will come.

If democratic procedures are followed and the group has a part in shaping a project through to its completion, attendance is not a problem.

One council creates interest by inviting other organizations to participate in projects.

**Q.** Do councils accept donations from business firms for teacher education scholarships?

**COMMENTS:** Yes, but it is unlikely that business firms will be solicited.

However, if firms give voluntarily or if a general community request is made for gifts, all donors could be listed without violating policy.

The Cincinnati Council accepts memorial contributions from individuals but does not solicit funds from sources other than P.T.A. members.

The Detroit Council recently accepted scholarship funds in honor of a retiring superintendent of schools. The grant was approved by all the council's member units.

**Q.** Can a council sponsor a money-making project?

**COMMENT:** A council may raise money for a specific program or project that concerns the whole council if the project has been approved by the member units, and they have agreed that the project needs financial support. No unit may be compelled to contribute to a special project without its consent, and no unit may be compelled to participate in a money-raising event. A free-will offering, however, is permissible.

**Q.** How can rural P.T.A.'s be brought together in projects similar to the city council projects we have heard described?

**COMMENT:** One rural council was able to enlist the interest of all its P.T.A.'s when it worked on a project dear to them—library service.

**Q.** When a council project has been approved by the majority of its local units, how can the rest of the units be brought into the work of carrying out the rule of the majority?

**COMMENT:** If a unit does not want to participate in a council project, it is free to decline. Sometimes it is possible to change an adverse decision by giving the members of the unit more information concerning the project.

## Communication Convenience

● The Montgomery County (Maryland) Council keeps its member units well posted by means of a smart-looking mimeographed publication, *The Spotlight*. In the monthly newsletter the council reader finds information on such subjects as minutes of meetings, the congress convention, the state legislation program, mailing policies, and summaries of local unit accomplishments.

To round out the picture for P.T.A.'s, a flyer, *Some Facts About Your Montgomery County Council*, gives a number of "what, who, why, and how facts" about the council.

## P.T.A. Majors

● A P.T.A. institute for school principals and unit presidents was sponsored by the Dade County (Florida) Council, in cooperation with the county superintendent of public instruction. To provide a springboard for discussion, "homework" was sent to participants in advance of the institute. Discussions centered on four main questions: "Can Goals Be Realistic?" "What Purposes Do Policies Serve?" "Are Budgets and Fund Raising Out of Control?" and "What Does Program Mean?"

